

In the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A processor-readable medium comprising processor-executable instructions for performing software updates, the processor-executable instructions comprising instructions for:
assigning a level of service to each of a plurality of users, by which the software updates will be performed;
scheduling performance of the software updates to a user from among the plurality of users according to the level of service assigned to that user; and
performing the software updates according to the schedule.
2. (Original) The processor-readable medium of claim 1, additionally comprising instructions for:
displaying a notification icon to a user; and
configuring the notification icon to allow the user to postpone the software updates within a grace period, wherein the grace period is followed by an enforcement period within which the notification icon does not allow the user to postpone the software updates.
3. (Original) The processor-readable medium of claim 2, wherein assigning the level of service comprises instructions for:
establishing the grace period and the enforcement period; and

1 wherein by shortening the grace period a higher level of service results due
2 to more rapid application of the software updates.
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4 **4.** (Original) The processor-readable medium of claim 1, additionally
5 comprising instructions for:
6 displaying a notification icon to a user; and
7 configuring the notification icon to allow the user to initiate performance of
8 the software updates.
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10 **5.** (Original) The processor-readable medium of claim 4, wherein configuring
11 the notification icon comprises instructions for:
12 providing the user with a first choice to display a reminder about installing
13 the software updates; and
14 providing the user with a second choice to install the software updates.
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16 **6.** (Original) The processor-readable medium of claim 5, wherein the first
17 choice of displaying the reminder comprises instructions for:
18 displaying information on grace and enforcement periods associated with
19 the software updates;
20 wherein the grace period is a period during which the user is allowed to
21 postpone performance of software updates;
22 wherein the grace period is configurable by an administrator; and
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1 wherein the enforcement period is a period, configured by the administrator
2 to follow the grace period, during which the user is not allowed to
3 postpone performance of software updates.
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5 **7.** (Original) The processor-readable medium of claim 5, wherein the second
6 choice of installing the software updates comprises instructions for:
7 allowing the user to schedule an update start time; and
8 allowing the user to schedule a reboot time.
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10 **8.** (Original) The processor-readable medium of claim 1, wherein performing
11 the software update comprises additional instructions for deploying
12 annoyance reminders urging the user to reboot.
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14 **9.** (Original) The processor-readable medium of claim 1, wherein performing
15 the software update comprises additional instructions for automatically
16 performing the software updates following a grace period.
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18 **10.** (Original) The processor-readable medium of claim 1, wherein performing
19 the software update comprises additional instructions for delaying the
20 performance until after conclusion of a user-initiated postponement within
21 a grace period.
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23 **11.** (Original) The processor-readable medium of claim 1, wherein scheduling
24 performance of the software updates comprises additional instructions for
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1 configuring a change window, wherein the change window defines a period
2 of time within which the updates will be performed.

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4 **12.** (Original) The processor-readable medium of claim 11, wherein assigning
5 the level of service comprises additional instructions for configuring
6 duration of the change window, wherein a longer duration implies a higher
7 level of service and a shorter duration implies a lower level of service.

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9 **13.** (Original) The processor-readable medium of claim 11, wherein scheduling
10 performance of the software updates comprises additional instructions for:
11 defining failsafe timeout periods for each of the software updates; and
12 adjusting the failsafe timeout periods according to individual computer
13 performance, wherein longer failsafe timeout periods are assigned
14 where the individual computer performance is slower.

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16 **14.** (Original) The processor-readable medium of claim 11, comprising
17 additional instructions for:
18 applying updates during the change window; and
19 monitoring a failsafe timeout for each update applied.

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21 **15.** (Original) The processor-readable medium of claim 11, comprising
22 additional instructions for identifying updates for which there was
23 insufficient time within the change window for installation within a second
24 change window.
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2 **16.** (Original) The processor-readable medium of claim 11, comprising
3 additional instructions for, when time remaining within the change window
4 is less than a failsafe timeout for any remaining software updates,
5 suspending application of the remaining software updates.
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7 **17.** (Original) The processor-readable medium of claim 11, comprising
8 additional instructions for associating servers into groups, wherein each
9 group is assigned a change window, and wherein the groups are sized to
10 allow simultaneous updating of the servers in each of the groups without
11 disrupting work flow.
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13 **18.** (Original) The processor-readable medium of claim 1, comprising
14 additional instructions for:
15 grouping a plurality of the software updates into a package; and
16 configuring the package for differential enforcement whereby different
17 computers would receive different software updates from the
18 package.
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20 **19.** (Original) The processor-readable medium of claim 18, comprising
21 additional instructions for obtaining the plurality of software updates from a
22 trusted source of update content.
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2 **20.** (Original) The processor-readable medium of claim 18, comprising
3 additional instructions for configuring the package for SMS consumption.
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5 **21.** (Original) The processor-readable medium of claim 18, wherein assigning
6 the level of service comprises additional instructions for providing different
7 rules of enforcement within the package to result in different application of
8 software updates within the package to different computers.
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10 **22.** (Original) The processor-readable medium of claim 18, wherein assigning
11 the level of service comprises additional instructions for partitioning the
12 package of software updates to separate trusted updates from un-trusted
13 updates.
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15 **23.** (Original) The processor-readable medium of claim 22, comprising
16 additional instructions for merging the un-trusted software updates with the
17 trusted software updates based on performance of the un-trusted updates in
18 a test environment.
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20 **24.** (Original) The processor-readable medium of claim 22, wherein the
21 partitioning is expressed in XML configured to inform different clients of
22 updates suitable for their consumption.
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1 25. (Original) The processor-readable medium of claim 1, wherein assigning
2 the level of service comprises additional instructions for incorporating an
3 authorization list of approved updates into a template based on a standard
4 image.

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6 26. (Original) The processor-readable medium of claim 25, wherein the
7 template is written into an XML document.

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9 27. (Original) The processor-readable medium of claim 26, wherein the XML
10 document is consumed and deployed as a mirror of a desired state for
11 software updates.

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13 28. (Original) The processor-readable medium of claim 27, wherein the XML
14 document is consumed and deployed by SMS.

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16 29. (Currently Amended) A method for performing software updates,
17 comprising:

18 assigning a service level to each user by which software updates will be
19 performed;

20 displaying an icon configured to allow a user a choice between displaying
21 software reminders and initiation of installation of the software
22 updates;

23 wherein the software reminders include information on grace periods
24 within which installation of the software update may be postponed
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1 and information on the onset of enforcement periods after which
2 installation of the software update may not be postponed; and
3 providing a user interface to allow selection of a time to perform the
4 installation of the software update and to allow selection of a time to
5 reboot, wherein the time selected is based in part on the assigned
6 level of service.

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- 8 **30.** (Original) A processor-readable medium comprising processor-executable
9 instructions for assisting a user to update software, the processor-executable
10 instructions comprising instructions for:
11 displaying an icon configured to allow a user a choice between displaying
12 software reminders and initiation of installation of the software
13 updates;
14 wherein the software reminders include information on grace periods
15 within which installation of the software update may be postponed
16 and information on the onset of enforcement periods after which
17 installation of the software update may not be postponed; and
18 providing a user interface to allow selection of a time to perform the
19 installation of the software update and to allow selection of a time to
20 reboot.
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1 **31.** (Original) The processor-readable medium of claim 30, additionally
2 comprising instructions for providing a user interface at repeated intervals
3 to persuade a user to reboot, where the software updates have been installed
4 and no reboot has been performed.

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6 **32.** (Original) The processor-readable medium of claim 30, additionally
7 comprising instructions for setting the grace periods and the enforcement
8 periods to control a level of service provided by the system.

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10 **33.** (Original) The processor-readable medium of claim 30, additionally
11 comprising instructions for periodically showing the user information about
12 software updates that have not yet been performed.

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14 **34.** (Original) A method for performing software updates, comprising:
15 associating servers into groups sized to allow simultaneous updating of
16 servers in each group without disrupting work flow;
17 establishing a change window for each of the groups; and
18 applying updates within the change window, while monitoring a failsafe
19 timeout for each update.
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1 **35.** (Original) A processor-readable medium comprising processor-executable
2 instructions for performing software updates, the processor-executable
3 instructions comprising instructions for:
4 associating servers into groups sized to allow simultaneous updating of
5 servers in each group without disrupting work flow;
6 establishing a change window for each of the groups; and
7 applying updates within the change window, while monitoring a failsafe
8 timeout for each update.

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10 **36.** (Original) The processor-readable medium of claim 35, additionally
11 comprising instructions for application of each software update and for
12 setting the failsafe timeout with reference to the anticipated times for
13 application.

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15 **37.** (Original) The processor-readable medium of claim 35, additionally
16 comprising instructions for determining if the failsafe timeout for each
17 software update is greater than time remaining within the change window,
18 and if so, for suspending installation of the software update.

1 **38.** (Original) The processor-readable medium of claim 35, additionally
2 comprising instructions for identifying, for potential installation in a second
3 change window, software updates which were not installed in the change
4 window.

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6 **39.** (Original) A method for performing software updates, comprising:
7 grouping a large number of software updates into a package;
8 configuring the package for differential enforcement, wherein different
9 computers are given different periods of time within which to
10 perform a software update; and
11 configuring the package for SMS consumption.

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13 **40.** (Original) A processor-readable medium comprising processor-executable
14 instructions for performing software updates, the processor-executable
15 instructions comprising instructions for:
16 grouping a large number of software updates into a package;
17 configuring the package for differential enforcement, wherein different
18 computers are given different periods of time within which to
19 perform a software update; and
20 configuring the package for SMS consumption.

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1 41. (Original) The processor-readable medium of claim 40, additionally
2 comprising instructions for configuring the package with content from a
3 trusted website.

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5 42. (Original) The processor-readable medium of claim 40, additionally
6 comprising instructions for distributing the package by utilizing SMS to a
7 plurality of computers.

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9 43. (Original) The processor-readable medium of claim 40, additionally
10 comprising instructions for performing software updates differentially on a
11 plurality of computers using the package.

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13 44. (Original) A method for performing software updates, comprising:
14 forming a package with a plurality of software updates;
15 partitioning the package to divide trusted updates from un-trusted updates;
16 distributing the package to a plurality of clients; and
17 installing appropriate software updates on each of the plurality of clients,
18 wherein the un-trusted software updates are installed only on clients
19 within a test environment.

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21 45. (Original) A processor-readable medium comprising processor-executable
22 instructions for performing software updates, the processor-executable
23 instructions comprising instructions for:
24 forming a package with a plurality of software updates;
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1 partitioning the package to divide trusted updates from un-trusted updates;
2 distributing the package to a plurality of clients; and
3 installing appropriate software updates on each of the plurality of clients,
4 wherein the un-trusted software updates are installed only on clients
5 within a test environment.
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7 **46.** (Original) The processor-readable medium of claim 45, additionally
8 comprising instructions for merging un-trusted software updates together
9 with the trusted software updates in response to performance of the un-
10 trusted software updates in the test environment.
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12 **47.** (Original) The processor-readable medium of claim 45, additionally
13 comprising instructions for expressing the partition with XML.
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15 **48.** (Original) The processor-readable medium of claim 45, additionally
16 comprising instructions, within the package, for expressing to clients which
17 software updates are suitable for their consumption.
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1 **49.** (Original) A method for performing software updates, comprising:
2 using a reference computer to generate a template having an authorization
3 list of approved updates;
4 deploying the template to client computers; and
5 performing software updates on the client computers according to the
6 template.

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8 **50.** (Original) A processor-readable medium comprising processor-executable
9 instructions for performing software updates, the processor-executable
10 instructions comprising instructions for:
11 using a reference computer to generate a template having an authorization
12 list of approved updates;
13 deploying the template to client computers; and
14 performing software updates on the client computers according to the
15 template.

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17 **51.** (Original) The processor-readable medium of claim 50, additionally
18 comprising instructions for incorporating the template into an XML file.
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1 **52.** (Original) The processor-readable medium of claim 50, wherein deploying
2 the template comprises instructions for configuring the template for SMS
3 consumption and deployment.
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5 **53.** (Original) The processor-readable medium of claim 50, additionally
6 comprising instructions for using the template to identify a subset of
7 software update files from a large file including a plurality of software
8 update files.
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